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29 November 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Dominican Republic: (Situation as of 0200 EST) President Balaguer and leading figures of the moderate opposition have agreed in principle to form a coalition regime which would prepare for elections in January and the inauguration of a new president in February. The tentative agreement came after the general strike, launched yesterday to force Balaguer's resignation, reached about 95 percent effectiveness in the capital, and affected various other cities and towns. Earlier in the day Balaguer had been on the point of requesting congress for a leave of absence during which he would turn the presidency over to General Rafael Rodriguez Echevarria, newly named armed forces secretary and thereby first in line of succession to the presidency. This threat, raising the possibility of military dictatorship, could be a potent instrument in forcing continued cooperation by opposition leaders.

While the strike has stimulated new attempts to reach agreement, it has also made a solution more difficult by creating additional cleavages between the military and the largest opposition group, the National Civic Union (UCN). UCN radios, before they were shut down yesterday, accused General Rodriguez of "supporting the forces of reaction" in the government, and the movement of tanks and troops through the streets yesterday made the populace more tense and hostile to the military. The armed forces, on the other hand, consider the strike a

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breach of faith by the UCN, and Balaguer intimated yesterday that the UCN leader and choice for president, Dr. Viriato Fiallo, may no longer be acceptable to the military. There is some question whether Dr. Fiallo is in control of his organization, since he is known to have recognized the danger of the strike action but was apparently unable to head it off.

General Rodriguez remains a key but ambiguous figure in the developments. His roughshod actions and brusque manner have alienated certain of his influential colleagues in the air force officer corps, and have led some members of the OAS subcommittee in the country to fear that he may be "another Trujillo in the making."

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Guinea: The unprecedented attacks on Sekou Touré's regime made recently at the national trade union conference by leftist leaders of the teachers' union have exposed deep cleavages within the ruling party. The attacks were made by "old militants" of Touré's own party who are bitter at having been left out in the division of key posts following Guinea's independence. The US Embassy believes that the enthusiastic public response to the charges of these leaders that the present government has failed to improve living conditions reflects discontent over food shortages and inadequate supplies, as well as over corruption and inefficiency in the government. The regime has charged the leaders with "subversive and anti-revolutionary activities" and sentenced them to 10-year prison terms. The American chargé believes that the situation undermines

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the impression Touré is seeking to create at home and abroad of a democratic, radical, nationalist movement. The chargé speculates that the government may be tempted to try to re-store its prestige by some dramatic nationalistic move. [redacted]

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[redacted] (Backup, Page 1)(Map)

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Austria-USSR: Moscow may plan to take advantage of the opening of trade negotiations on 1 December in Vienna to renew its warnings against Austrian association with the Common Market. The USSR has repeatedly asserted that any Austrian association would be considered a breach of Vienna's neutrality. While Austrian officials have played down their uneasiness over possible new Soviet pressures, the recent Soviet moves against Finland have aroused apprehension in Vienna that Austria may now come under stronger attack from Moscow. [redacted]

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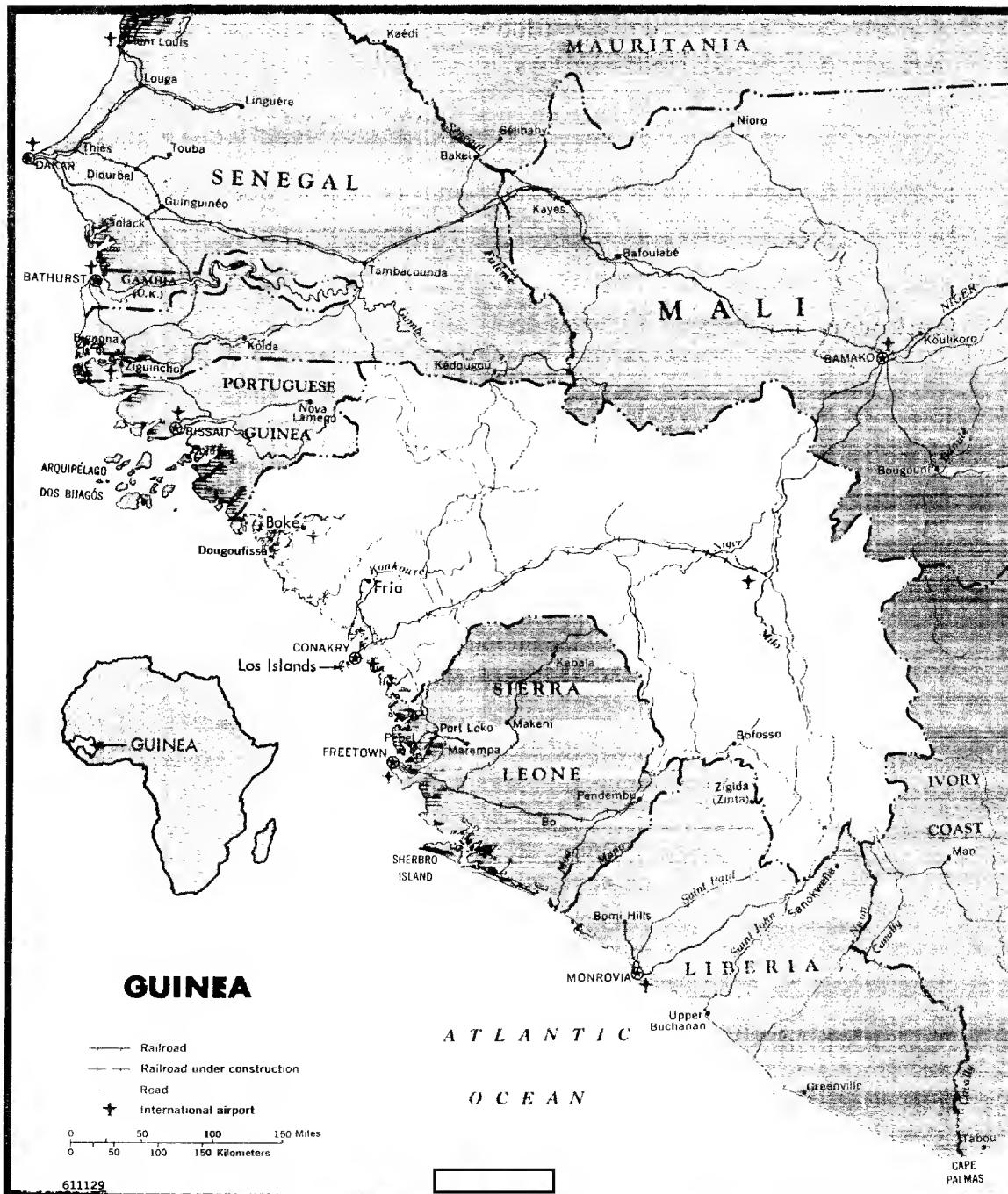
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Guinea

The government communiqué of 23 November, which announced the sentencing of five labor and educational leaders, including several of Guinea's leading educators, also confirmed the existence of disturbances in several areas of the interior. The communiqué charged that teachers and merchants were engaged in a conspiracy with foreign interests. Specifically, the teachers were accused of circulating a memorandum of grievances to foreign embassies and maintaining contact with exiled Guineans at Dakar in Senegal. However, the American Embassy reports that the teachers' memorandum contained routine trade union demands.

To overcome popular sympathies for teachers, who hold a privileged and influential position in Guinean society, the government has been conducting a campaign of meetings and resolutions denouncing "traitors and saboteurs" of national unity as part of a world-wide imperialist plot. On 24 November the regime organized district party meetings and mobilized uniformed militia and youth formations to take action against students in several cities who had carried on a sympathy strike for the sentenced teachers. Within the party and youth groups there was a deep rift, with illiterate party youth mobilized against literates who had been asserting their independence of the party line and the dictates of party leadership.

Sekou Touré, answering his critics, has emphasized radical economic measures--including the nationalization of the Bauxite du Midi aluminum company, which has been one of the two largest Western economic interests in Guinea. Touré has terminated the company's activities at the bauxite mines in the Los Islands because the company had refused to carry out an expensive aluminum development project at Boké. The Boké scheme involved an alumina-processing plant as well as bauxite deposits reported to include half of the free world's bauxite reserves.

In mid-November, when Guinean authorities took over the Los Island installation, they were accompanied by five Czechs,

six Poles, and one Hungarian who are expected to direct key technical operations pending the arrival of a staff of 20 technicians from Czechoslovakia and Poland. The bauxite will probably be delivered to bloc markets, thus tightening Guinea's economic relations with the bloc and significantly reducing Conakry's major economic tie with the West.

A significant increase in the bloc presence may be forthcoming next month; usually well-informed sources report that Guineans and Soviets are on the point of reaching agreement for the USSR to construct a large hydroelectric dam on the Konkouré River. If the USSR builds this dam, which is necessary if Guinea is to have an aluminum industry, it would be in a position to control the power source for the FRIA aluminum company, the last remaining important Western enterprise in Guinea.

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